

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/708,898

Examiner

Michael Y. Won

Applicant(s)

EVEN ET AL.

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Request for Continued Examination and Amendment filed June 29, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 65-69 & 71-75 (re-numbered 1-10).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date Attached.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


SALEH NAJJAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER


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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Raymond Reese (Reg. No. 47,891) on August 11, 2006.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

69. [67.] (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim 66, wherein the routing factors include information relating to the most expeditious route for effecting the communicative interconnection between the at least two multimedia terminals and the multipoint control units.

70. [68.] (**Cancelled**) The method of claim 65, wherein the capability factors for the plurality of MCUs is entered by the operator using the web browser.

71. [69.] (**Currently Amended**) A method for multimedia communication, comprising:

communicatively interconnecting a plurality of multipoint control units (MCUs) to a central controller capable of scheduling and hosting a video conference and allocating conferences on the MCUs such that the number of conferences that can be scheduled on a conference schedule is optimized; the central controller comprising a first application program interface (API) adapted to allow an operator to communicate with the apparatus using a web browser and a second API adapted to allow the apparatus to communicate with a plurality of MCUs;

identifying capability factors for each of a plurality of multimedia terminals and each of the plurality of MCUs; wherein at least one of the multimedia terminals can be serviced by more than one of the plurality of MCUs and wherein the at least two of the plurality of MCUs are chosen based on the comparing of capability factors;

responsive to a command to initiate a multimedia communication between at least two of the plurality of multimedia terminals, evaluating the capability factors for each of the at least two multimedia terminals;

comparing the capability factors for each of the at least two multimedia terminals to the capability factors of the multipoint control units communicatively interconnected to the central controller to determine preferred interconnection between the at least two multimedia terminals;

responsive to the comparing of capability factors, the central controller directing a communicative interconnection between the at least two multimedia terminals via at least one of the plurality of multipoint control units; and

controlling multipoint control unit participant slots with the central controller, wherein the central controller controls the MCUs participant slots as if it were an additional MCU.

72. [70.] (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim 69, wherein the conference schedule is optimized by combining conferences on a MCU so as to maximize the number of participants on the MCU.

73. [71.] (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim 69, wherein the MCU participant slots are participant slots remaining after the MCU is optimally scheduled.

74. [72.] (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim 69, wherein the command to initiate a multimedia communication is issued when the start time for a conference arrives.

75. [73.] (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim 69, wherein the command to initiate a multimedia communication is issued when a participant requests an impromptu multimedia communication.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not disclose, teach, or suggest neither singly nor in combination the claimed limitation of "wherein the at least two multimedia terminals can be serviced by more than one of the plurality of MCUs and wherein at least two of the plurality of MCUs are chosen based on the comparing of the capabilities factor" as recited in claims 65 and "wherein at least one of the multimedia terminals can be serviced by more than one of the plurality of MCUs and wherein at least two of the plurality of MCUs are chosen based on the comparing of the capabilities factor" as recited in claims 71.

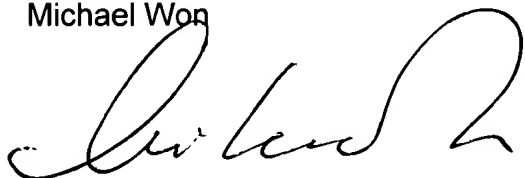
5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Y. Won whose telephone number is 571-272-3993. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th: 7AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on 571-272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Michael Won



August 11, 2006



SALEH NAJJAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER